Boston, February 25. 1856.

Dear Mr. Webb,

Your notice of Miss Murray's book – I take it to be yours – in the Feb. Advocate is admirable. I have laughed, alone & with others, very heartily over those extracts. The manner of their arrangement, & the little heading to each, were quite unique – it reminded me of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck, and I really believe you were mischievously inspired by that extraordinary production, to give to Miss Murray's series of sayings and doings a character equally sound, trustworthy, and intelligent with those of that worthy.

I have rec^d., through S. H. Gay, your request for a portrait of T. Parker, & for a couple of books. The request arrives too late, to be responded to by our Annual Bazaar box – that went a fortnight since, and I hope is in your possession now. But I can send (as I have before said to you) by E. Train's Ships, and by the next of those, if not by an earlier conveyance, I will send these things. Possibly I may send them by the Steamer, which sails this week. When I do send them, I will order them to be left with S. R. Graves Baltic Buildings, Liverpool, who will, I presume, forward them to Dublin; – or you can send him any order you please respecting them. Some little duties will perhaps be incurred at L.

26th. I have put up the above-mentioned books & portrait, directed as aforesaid, and hope to forward them by Steamer tomorrow. They are charged to you, as follows: The

portrait of T. Parker, $1.00 - Miss Hunt's book $1.00 -
the Physiology of Marriage (which I understand is by Dr.
Wm. A. Alcott) .62 cents.

I suppose you exchange with F. Douglass's
paper, or otherwise see it. - You will note in last week's
paper a most virulent attack by him upon Mr. Garrison
& his friends, - upon Mr. Esthin, &c. - I have felt it a duty
to send Mary Esthin a copy, and I think she will not be
much disturbed by it, insulting as it is. Indeed, with
all who know Mr. Esthin, there cannot be a moment's
doubt as to whether he, or this spiteful defamer, is most
likely to be right, in their position and opinions. Douglass
has evidently presumed on the long silence of Mr. Garrison
& others concerning him. Garrison thinks his article
"adroit" - to my mind it is merely malignant and
unscrupulous. I think G. fully feels the necessity of
checking and rebuking this unprincipled man, - and,
unless led to take an opposite view of what is best,
will soon call him to account.

No one here seems to know why Geo. Thompson
has gone to India - or what he proposes to do there.
I judge, by the Feb. Advocate, you are as much in
the dark as we, - or were so, when that No. was issued.
You may have heard more about it, since, and we
should be glad to be informed. I judge that his connexion
with the "Empire" was never a very close one, nor very
hearty, on his part. Do you think he had any 'difference'
with the founders of the paper? Mr. Chapman seems to be
still connected with it. —
I see that Mr. Baines
of Leeds is re-elected to Parliament.

Our papers & people without exception are thinking that the aspect of affairs between your country and ours is a very critical one. I am rather sorry to see some of the Eng. papers, and especially the Times, dwelling upon the terrible scourging which England will give to the U. States, should it come to a war. It is the very sort of language to stir bad blood. So far as I have looked into the Central America matter, and the so-called Clayton-Bulwer treaty, I think England has a fair show of right, and has not infringed upon the treaty. In the matter of enlistment for her army, on our soil, it is otherwise; I think England was wrong in that matter, and very indiscreet - but that no harm was done, & that for the wrong (such as it was) She has made the amende honorable, most amply. I am very sure the American people are perfectly satisfied on that point, and would scorn the idea of going to war for that. But if defiant language is resorted to, - especially with such a headstrong and shameless National administration as we have, reason & good feeling will be supplanted by anger and violence. There is a great use and need of hard language; but it is not the time for it, when two nations are on the verge of a quarrel, - which is all known well enough to you, - excuse my seeing to think otherwise - I put great dependence on the Commercial Interests of the 2 countries binding them to keep the peace. The only good thing, likely to come of a war with G. Britain, would be its disturbing, & perhaps destroying, influence on Slavery.

The great quadrennial Presidential turmoil is now just commencing here. The "Know Nothings" have

given new proof of the correctness of their name by making Fugitive Slave Law Fillmore their candidate. There was an extensive bolt of Northern members from their Convention.

Congress is a-going. No good fruits have yet come of the election of Banks as Speaker. Every other election, every other vote has preponderated in behalf of the Peirce Administration, or Slavery, or both.

Will you have heard, before getting this, that Aunt Weston is in England? I know you will leave no stone unturned to see this most excellent little woman. Her going was "mighty" sudden. All things were arranged for her brother Warren & herself to go to Cuba, & until the warm spring weather had fully come; but the withdrawal of the Steamer, in which they had taken passage, to be put on other service, broke up their Cuba plans, & hence this change to the "Persia", and a visit to Europe. I hope she will stay long enough to see all our friends at Dublin, Liverpool, Bristol, London, Leeds, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. &c.; but I know nothing of her intentions. She will naturally hurry to her sisters, wherever they are; indeed, I suspect Mr. Weston's health will make it necessary for them to seek a warmer climate than that of either England or France.

Kansas matters are full of interest to us. The Presidency sides, most decidedly, with those who are striving to make it a Slave State; and the U. S. troops will be employed to crush any opposition to the same. I think there will be a contest. The Free State men are a very large majority in the Territory. The Slavery-ruffians are nearly all outside of it. Large supplies of weapons and ammunition have been sent from the Free States to Kansas. The beginning of the End appears.

Truly Yours
Sam'l May Jr

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 6. p. 20